

**Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance encourages support of HB 6359 – An Act Concerning an Early Childhood System**

HB 6359 is an An Act Concerning an Early Childhood System. This proposal, with an Office of Early Childhood that reports directly to the Governor, will give early childhood services and programs the focus and attention they deserve. This creates one place for the coordination and delivery of early childhood services. By coordinating in one agency, the state will be able to identify gaps in services and make informed policy decisions.

The Governor's proposed early childhood plan is exciting and groundbreaking. However, it still must be passed by the legislature. The Office of Early Childhood (House Bill 6359) will need the strong support of advocates as it moves through the legislative process. The Alliance will be mobilizing programs and organizations, and CT Parent Power will be asking parents to take action. Your voice is crucial.

There are several things you can do to support this plan:

- Call or email your legislators in support of the creation of the Office of Early Childhood (HB 6359).
- Submit testimony (in-person or electronically) to the Education Committee Public Hearing on Feb. 15. Please come to the hearing - a packed room speaks volumes.
- Submit testimony to Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on Feb. 21 (can be the same testimony sent to Education Committee, just change the committee name)
- Attend Early Childhood Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on March 20 (9:30 arrival, 10 a.m. program). Bring other members of your collaborative and plan an in-person meeting with your legislators.

Instructions for Testimony to Education Committee (Feb. 15) and Appropriations Committee (Feb. 21)

**Education Committee:** Public hearing on **Friday, February 15, 2013** at **11:00 A.M.** in Room **1E** of the LOB. Please email a PDF copy of your written testimony to [EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov) by 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 14, 2013 and include the word "Testimony" in the subject line. Written testimony will be accepted in Room 3100 of the LOB until 9:30 A.M. on the date of the hearing. Please submit 30 copies.

**Appropriations Committee:** Public Hearing on **Thursday, February 21, 2013**. Public speaker order for the public hearings will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB and from 10:15 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. in Room 2700 of the LOB. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. Please submit 25 copies of written testimony at the time of sign-up. The Committee will accept electronic testimony via email at [appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov](mailto:appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov) for posting on the Committee's website and inclusion in the hearing transcript.

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